

a comparator for comparing the detected value of the parameter with a predetermined reference value;

B1
an output element for outputting a result based on the comparison; and
a motor for driving the cutter;

wherein the parameter is a value of a current loaded on the motor.

B2
0 Claim 3 (Amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the detector comprises an ammeter for measuring the value of the current.

B2
Claim 4 (Amended): An apparatus of estimating a lifetime of a cutter for cutting a sheet comprising:

a detector for detecting a value of a parameter representing a cutting resistance during sheet cutting;

a comparator for comparing the detected value of the parameter with a predetermined reference value; and

an output element for outputting a result based on the comparison;

wherein the parameter is a time that is required from beginning to completion of cutting.

B3
0 Claim 10 (Amended): A method of estimating a lifetime of a cutter for cutting a sheet comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a value of a parameter representing a cutting resistance during sheet cutting;

(b) comparing the detected value of the parameter with a predetermined reference value; and
(c) outputting a result based on the comparison,
wherein the parameter is a value of a current that is loaded onto a motor for driving the cutter.

B3
Claim 11 (Amended): A method of estimating a lifetime of a cutter for cutting a sheet comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting a value of a parameter representing a cutting resistance during sheet cutting;
(b) comparing the detected value of the parameter with a predetermined reference value; and
(c) outputting a result based on the comparison,

wherein the parameter is a time that is required from beginning to completion of cutting.

0 Claim 12 (Amended): The method of claim 10, wherein it is determined that the cutter is unfit for use when the value of the parameter exceeds the predetermined reference value.
